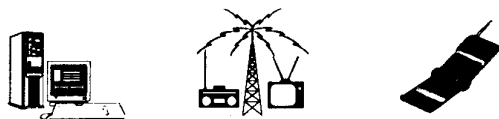# FCC PRODUCT APPROVAL THROUGH USE OF RECOGNITION

Julius P. Knapp
Chief, Policy & Rules Division
Office of Engineering and Technology
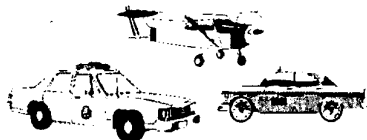Federal Communications Commission

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Equipment Authorization

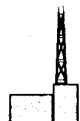*The FCC Requires Certain Equipment to be Authorized to Ensure Compliance with Standards*

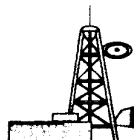# Radio Transmitters:
Control Radio Interference

Cellular. PCS

Mobile Radios: Police, Business, Air ,Maritime...
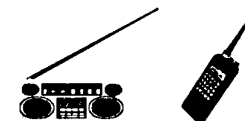
Broadcast   *Microwave*   *Unlicensed Transmitters*

RF Devices:
EMC

PCs and Peripherals
- Digital Devices

Certain Radio Receivers

Microwave Ovens & ISM Equipment

VCRs TV Inter- face Devices

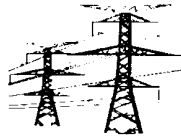# Equipment *Not* Subject to EMC Standards

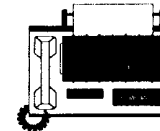Transportation Vehicles

Appliances

Medical Electronic Equipment

Test Equipment

Utilities

Terminal Attachment

✓ Prevent Harms to the Network

Authorization Processes

Verification

Self Approval

No Application to FCC

Notification

Short Application

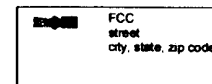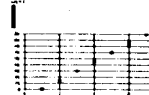**Type Acceptance**

"Licensed" Radio Transmitters

"Certification"

"Unlicensed" Devices

Application to FCC

Certification Process

1. Manufacturer Tests Product

2. Determines Compliance With Standards

3. Prepares File

4. Sends Application to FCC (if required)

FCC
street
city, state, zip code

Forces for Change: Domestic

Fast Pace of Technology

⤵ *Need to Reduce Delays*

Desire to Reduce Costs

⤵ *Simplify Process*

Forces for Change: International

One Standard
One Test
One Product Approval

- **Global Markets**
.- **Mutual Recognition Agreements:**
  - **Facilitate Trade**
  - **Ensure Market Access**
  - **Certainty of Process**

Streamlining Activity - I

☞ Digital Devices Deregulated
   May 9, 1996 - ET Docket No. 95-19

☞ Main Actions:
   Manufacturer's Self Declaration
   as Option for PCs & Peripherals

   Use Accredited Lab for this Option

Streamlining Activity - II

☞ Report & Order
   April 2, 1998 - ET Docket No. 97-94

☞ Main Actions:

   * Simplify existing processes

   * Initiate electronic filing of applications

   * Self-authorization for more devices

Relaxations for Certain Equipment

Equipment	Former Requirement	New Requirement
Pt 15 Unintentional Radiators	Certification/ Notification	DoC
Pt 18 Consumer ISM	Certification	DoC
Certain Radio Txs in Auth. Services	Notification	Verification

Notes:
1. Scanning receivers still require certification
2. Pt. 15 unlicensed transmitters still require certification
3. Transmitters currently subject to type acceptance shifted to certification

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Streamlining Activity - III

✓ Report & Order: Dec. 17, 1998 GEN Docket 98-68
✓ Allow Certification by Telecommunications Certification Bodies (TCBs)
✓ Implement Mutual Recognition Agreements
✓ ITU Arrangement on GMPCS

TCBs

- Can certify as alternative to FCC

- FCC designates TCBs

- Qualification criteria:
  - Accredited by NIST
  - Based on ISO guides
  - Expertise in FCC requirements

- Approvals listed in FCC data base

What is An MRA?

- Agreement Between Governments
- Deals With *Conformity Assessments*
- Mutually Agree to Accept:

  Test Results
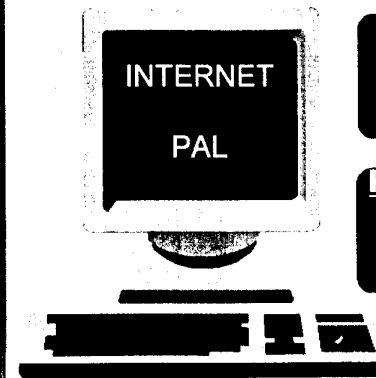
  and possibly

  Product "Approvals"

Same Standards Not Required

Recognition of TCBs Outside the U.S.A.

- TCBs will be designated outside USA under terms of MRAs

- MRAs provide safeguards to ensure integrity & fairness

- Under MRA U.S. conformity assessment bodies must be recognized in return

Availability of Information

INTERNET

PAL

FCC.GOV
Wealth of
Information

Public Access Link
Certification
Information

Also, Many Other
Resources!!

The End.